James Schier Bio – 2016



Jim Schier is the Chief Architect for NASA's Space Communications and Navigation Program at NASA Headquarters. He leads NASA and international studies on the evolution of NASA's space communications networks to meet the needs of future science and human exploration missions. He joined NASA in 2004 after 25 years in industry where he worked on civil, defense, intelligence, and commercial space systems. At Northrop Grumman, he supported rearchitecting the National Reconnaissance Office's reconnaissance ground systems. He led system engineering subcontracts on commercial satellite systems including Iridium and Thuraya. Mr. Schier was Avionics Manager and Chief System Engineer on the International Space Station at Grumman. At TRW, he managed flight software development on the MILSTAR Communications Satellite and led integration of materials processing experiments for the 1985 Shuttle Spacelab 3 mission. He received a Silver Snoopy award for his work on Spacelab 3 and a NASA Administrator's Group Award for the team that redesigned the Space Station. In 2015, he was awarded the NASA Exceptional Service Medal "for exceptional service and exemplary leadership in creating NASA's future Space Communications and Navigation Architecture." He holds degrees in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. In his spare time, Jim is a volunteer docent at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum giving tours to the public.